(e) During the 9th Plan period, 168 Ground Line Kilometres (GLK) of 2D and 768 GLK of 3D seismic data acquisition were envisaged in West Bengal. As on 1.10.99, 417 GLK of 2D and 2062 GLK of 3D seismic data have already been acquired. The interesting sand encountered in Ichapur-I was retested in a side tracked well.

ONGC's future oil exploration programme in West Bengal involves interpretation and integration of acquired 2D and 3D seismic and other geo-scientific data, for allowing up the leads and generation of commercially viable drilling prospects, if any.

CBM Exploration in Raniganj, West Bengal

1651. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1982 given in the Rajya Sabha on 16th December, 1998 and state:

(a) whether Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL) has been granted for CBM exploration in Raniganj area of West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether the CBM exploration has been commenced as stated in the aforesaid reply; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor and the details plan of activities for drilling alongwith time schedule in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. has taken up Coal Bed Methane (CBM) exploration as a Research and Development (R&D) project. Preliminary geological field investigations and analysis have been undertaken. Further activities would be dependant on the results thereof.

Pricing of GAIL GDRs

1652. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: